

Washington Update

October 15, 2004

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1. NASEMSD Elects New Officers

During the NASEMSD Annual Meeting, Oct. 6-9, 2004, at the Yarrow Resort, in Park City, Utah, members elected new officers. The new officers are: Bob Bass, M.D., director, Maryland EMS, NASEMSD president (rbass@miemss.org <<mailto:rbass@miemss.org>>); Jay Bradshaw, director, Maine EMS, NASEMSD president-elect (jay.bradshaw@maine.gov <<mailto:jay.bradshaw@maine.gov>>); Janet Kastl, director, Washington Office of Emergency Medical and Trauma Prevention, NASEMSD treasurer (janet.kastl@doh.wa.gov <<mailto:janet.kastl@doh.wa.gov>>); and Nancy Bourgeois, director, Louisiana EMS, NASEMSD secretary (nbourgeo@dhh.la.gov <<mailto:nbourgeo@dhh.la.gov>>).

2. NASEMSD Represented at Targeted Capabilities Meeting

At the urging of both Congress and the President, the Department of Homeland Security is proceeding with a proposed plan to transition first responder grant programs to a risk- and threat-based allocation system. Congress will consider such a transition in fiscal year 2006. Bob O'Connor and Bob Bass represented EMS at the targeted capabilities meeting that is examining Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8. Under the directive, SLGCP will continue to develop a universal list of first responder preparedness tasks and to define capabilities to accomplish those tasks grouped by the vulnerability of the jurisdiction.

3. New Rural/Frontier EMS Agenda Released

On Oct. 8, 2004, the National Rural Health Association, National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, and NASEMSD announced the release of a new agenda providing a roadmap to restructure and strengthen rural and frontier Emergency Medication Services (EMS). Released in conjunction with the NASEMSD Conference in Park City, Utah, the "Rural/Frontier EMS Agenda for the Future" offers recommendations to support and improve emergency services in rural and frontier communities by focusing on restructuring, reimbursement, and recruitment issues. A copy of the agenda is available at http://www.nrharural.org/EMSagenda/EMS_Book_9_17A.pdf <http://www.nrharural.org/EMSagenda/EMS_Book_9_17A.pdf> . For more information on the Agenda, see <http://www.nrharural.org/EMSagenda/> <<http://www.nrharural.org/EMSagenda/>> .

4. New Guide Helps Communities Prepare for Vaccine and Drug Dispensing in the Event of a Public Health Emergency

A new planning guide funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is designed to help communities make sure that all Americans have needed drugs and vaccines in the event of a natural epidemic or bioterrorist attack. The guide complements the Strategic National Stockpile guidebook prepared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The new guide, "Community-Based Mass Prophylaxis: A Planning Guide for Public Health Preparedness," is designed to help state, county, and local officials meet federal requirements for a public health emergency. The guide is available at <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/cbmprophyl/cbmpro.htm>

<<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/cbmprophyl/cbmpro.htm>> . Printed copies are available by sending an e-mail to ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov <<mailto:ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov>> .

5. Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program Publishes Document that Defines Rural

The Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC for the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (Critical Access Hospital) has posted an EMS document on their Web site titled "An Alternative Approach to Defining Rural for the Purpose of Providing Emergency Medical Services." This document suggests an alternative to the MSA/Goldsmith method currently used by CMS for Medicare reimbursement and it includes a method of tiering "ruralness" for ambulance services. Maps of the model of each state are also posted on the Web site. The document and maps may be accessed by going to the EMS Section of the TASC Web site, <http://tasc.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/ems.shtml> <<http://tasc.ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/ems.shtml>> , and then scrolling down to RESOURCES.

6. Test Results Reveal Potential Deficits in EMT-Basic Education

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) has posted an notice regarding potential deficits in EMT-Basic education. Evaluation of the current versions of the NREMT-Basic written examination indicates EMT-Basic students are having significant difficulty in identifying and managing airway, oxygenation, and/or ventilation problems in pediatric and adult patients. To learn more about this problem, visit http://www.nremt.org/about/article_00018_Basic_deficit_potential.asp <http://www.nremt.org/about/article_00018_Basic_deficit_potential.asp> .

7. Fire Grant Program Reauthorization Passes Congress

The reauthorization for the Fire Grant Program was included in the Department of Defense authorization bill that passed Congress. The bill requires that a minimum of 3.5 percent of the fire grant program be used for EMS, and that up to 2 percent of this amount can be used for private and public non-profit EMS organizations. The text of the conference report is available at <http://www.house.gov/rules/1084200confrept.pdf>.

8. CATC Conducting National Survey on Trauma Systems and Trauma Care

The Coalition for American Trauma Care (CATC) later this year will conduct a comprehensive national survey of the American public on awareness of and support for organized systems of trauma care. The poll will be conducted by Louis Harris Associates. The survey results will be analyzed by a panel of trauma experts with recommendations developed to guide national policy programs by CATC and other groups and organizations.

9. Grants Available to Ambulance Services

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has issued an RFA for ambulance services. The "Partnerships in Implementing Patient Safety RFA" was released in the "NIH Guide" on Sept. 24, 2004, and is available on the AHRQ Web site. The objective of this RFA is to assist health care institutions in implementing safe practice interventions that show evidence of eliminating or reducing medical errors, risks, hazards, and harms associated with the process of care. Applications are due Jan. 19, 2005. For more information, visit <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-05-012.html#PartII> <<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-05-012.html#PartII>> .

10. Census Report Breaks Down States' Homeland Security Spending

The U.S. Census Bureau conducted an analysis of grants, procurement contracts and salaries distributed to states by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) which shows that different regions tend to receive different funds. Texas, California and New York consistently top the list of recipients. According to a U.S. Census Bureau Consolidated Federal Funds Report released Oct. 7, 2004, DHS grants sent to state and local governments totaled \$6.9 billion in 2003. The complete report is available with the state breakdowns at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/03cffr.pdf> <<http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/03cffr.pdf>> .

11. New Training Available to Help Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations Meet JCAHO Standards

UniversityOfHealthCare, a leading e-learning solutions provider, announces new training programs to help hospitals and healthcare organizations meet JCAHO standards and develop a quality program. Recent releases include "Patient Rights," "Age Specific Competence," "Medication Errors," and "Quality Assurance and Outcomes Introduction." All programs include a test at the end that can be used to document successful completion. These programs are available at <http://www.uohc.com/courseentry.htm> <<http://www.uohc.com/courseentry.htm>> .

12. Chairman Cox Releases White Paper on Terrorism

"Freedom Defended: Implementing America's Strategy for Homeland Security," a comprehensive white paper on terrorism was released on Oct. 5, 2004, by Homeland Security Chairman Christopher Cox (R-CA). This 46-page report highlights the steps taken by Congress and President Bush to confront the threat of terrorism at home and abroad. The complete white paper is available at http://hsc.house.gov/files/defending_freedom.pdf <http://hsc.house.gov/files/defending_freedom.pdf> .

13. Upcoming Events (denotes event is newly added)**

EMS Expo, NAEMT Annual Meeting, and American Ambulance Association Annual Conference & Trade Show, Oct. 19-23, 2004, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Ga. Information is available at <http://www.emsmagazine.com> <<http://www.emsmagazine.com/>> or by calling (977) EMS-EXPO.

CAAS Fall 2004 Accreditation Seminar, Oct. 20, 2004, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Ga. Information is available at <http://www.caas.org> <<http://www.caas.org/>> .

Air Medical Transport Conference, Oct. 25-27, 2004, Cincinnati Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. Information is available at <http://www.aams.org/amtc2004.html> <<http://www.madd.org/>> .

**FDIC East 2004, Oct. 25-30, 2004, Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ. Information is available at <http://www.FDICEAST.com>
<<http://www.fdiceast.com/>> .

**National EMS Management Association 2004 EMS Performance Conference and 2nd Annual NEMSMA Meeting, Oct. 27-30, 2004, Tampa, Fla. Information is available at <http://www.nemsma.org/annualmeeting/2004/>
<<http://www.nemsma.org/annualmeeting/2004/>> .

Pan-American Trauma Society XVII Congress, Nov. 17-20, 2004, Miami Beach, Fla. Information is available at <http://www.panamtrauma.org/meeting> <<http://www.panamtrauma.org/meeting>> .

4th Global Homeland Security Conference & Expo - Protecting the Nation's Critical Infrastructure and Key Assets, Nov. 22-23, 2004, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Information is available at <http://www.protectinfrastructure.com>
<<http://www.protectinfrastructure.com/>> .

**2005 Trauma-EMS Systems Program Leadership Meeting, Feb. 2-4, 2005, Key Bridge Marriott, Arlington, Va. Information will be provided closer to the meeting date.

"Delivering Results: Improving Pregnancy & Birth," 2005 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Annual Conference, Feb. 19-23, 2005, Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. Information is available at <http://www.amchp.org/conference>.

Homeland Defense Training Conference®: Medical Planning and Operations in Support of Consequence Management: "Managing the Un-thinkable in the Era of Asymmetrical Threats" - Preparing Healthcare Professionals for New Challenges in the Medical Arena, Feb. 24-25, 2005, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. Information is available at http://www.marketaccess.org/event_consmgmt.asp
<http://www.marketaccess.org/event_consmgmt.asp> .